MARVEL COMICS
THE PUNISHER
#1
24 JAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SLAUGHTER ON MORGUE AVENUE
Simon Coleby 1994
DIRECT EDITION
$1.50 US $2.05 CAN
02411

HIS FAMILY WAS MURDERED BY A PSYCHOPATH IN AN AGE WHERE JUSTICE CAN BE BOUGHT AND NO ONE BELIEVES IN OLD-FASHIONED PUNISHMENT ANYMORE... NO ONE EXCEPT JAKE GALLOWS... A WEAPONS SPECIALIST IN THE PUBLIC EYE POLICE FORCE BY DAY, AT NIGHT HE IS INCORRUPTIBLE JUSTICE.
STAN LEE PRESENTS :
THE PUNISHER 2099
YOU'RE ALL SCHEDULED FOR EXECUTION ANYWAY...
...YOU'VE JUST BROUGHT YOUR SENTENCES FORWARD!
SHOCK! NO! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED BEHIND BARS... WE'D HAVE LIVED LONGER!
PLEASE, PUNISHER... DON'T SHOOT! WE'LL GO BACK TO OUR CELLS!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, LOSERS!
TIME TO DIE!
PKOWW!
AAAGH!
EXPLODED IN MY HANDS... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... THESE GUNS ARE FOOLPROOF!

PUNISHER 2099 * Vol. 1, No. 24, January, 1995. (ISSN # 1068-3550) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.50 per copy in the U.S. and $2.00 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $18.00 U.S., $30.00 foreign, and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R125008652. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. PUNISHER 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PUNISHER 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979 DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 753-6331. PRINTED IN USA.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH BAD LUCK COME MY WAY...
COME AND GET IT, SEWER RATS!
FATAL Attraction

LOOKS LIKE LADY LUCK'S ON OUR SIDE! LET'S TAKE THE PUNISHER APART AND GET OUT OF HERE!
YEAH-- BACK ON THE STREETS WHERE THE PICKINGS ARE EASY!
NOT SO QUICK, GUYS-- WE WANT TO TAKE OUR TIME OVER THIS. LET'S MAKE THE PUNISHER SUFFER!
PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER--Writers
SIMON COLEBY--Artist VICKIE WILLIAMS--Letterer
IAN LAUGHLIN--Colorist MATT MORRA-Convict
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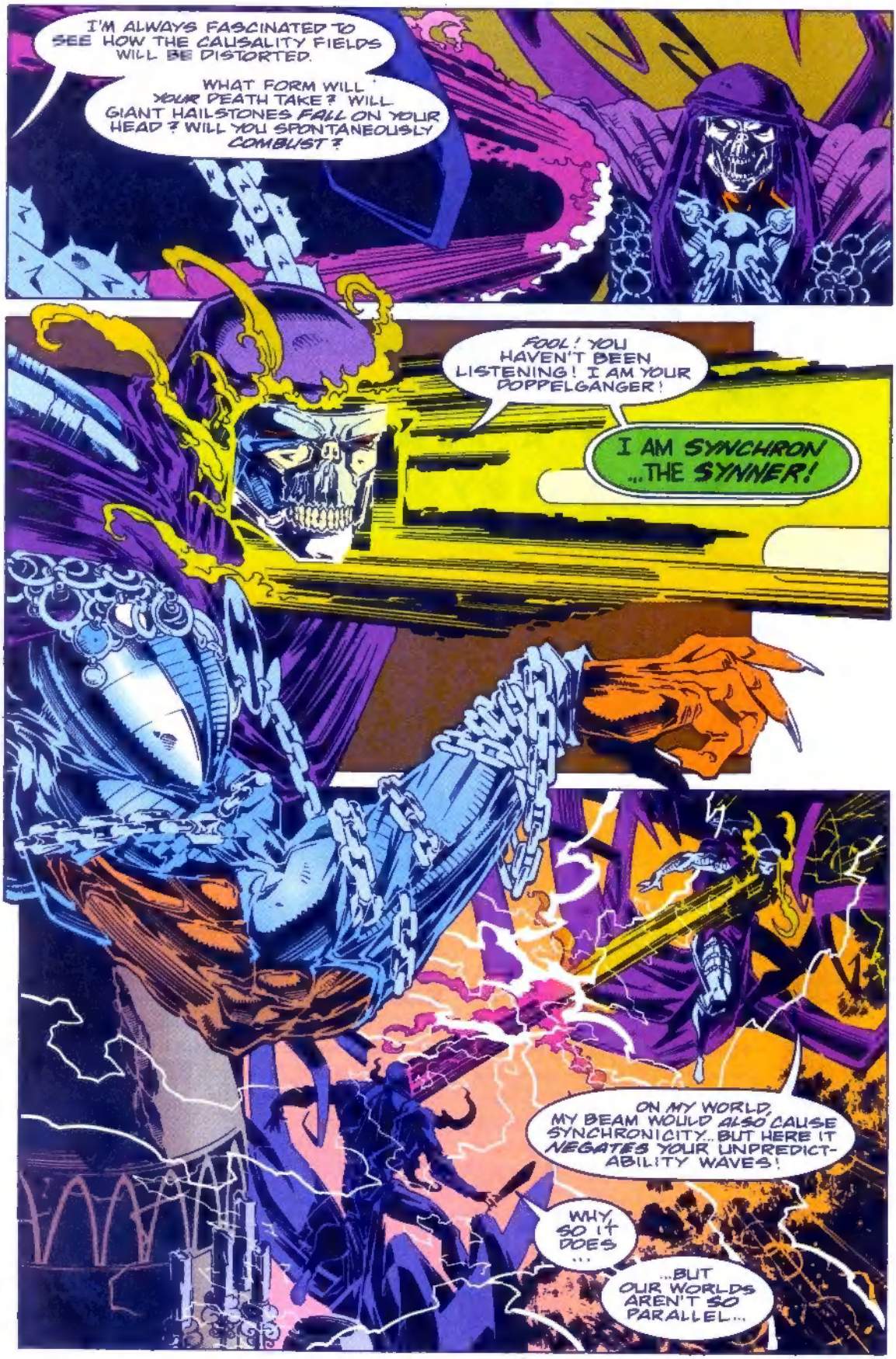
...BUT I DON'T NEED HIGH-TECH TO PUNISH... I CAN DO IT ON HATE ALONE!
I'VE BEEN HIT BY A JONAH SYNDROME... ALL MY MACHINERY'S SCREWING UP...
AUTO-TARGET SHURIKEN... BUT I'M NOT GONNA RISK SWITCHING THEM ON...
...I'LL RELY ON GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SKILL.
AAAHH!

MORGUE AVENUE.
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, SYNCHRON.
I AM YOUR COUNTER-SELF FROM A REALITY PARALLEL TO THIS ONE.
I'VE COME TO PUT AN END TO YOUR MEDDLING!
DID YOU REALLY IMAGINE THAT YOU COULD VIOLATE THE RULES OF THE UNIVERSE WITH IMPUNITY?
CREATE IMPOSSIBLE VORTICES OF COINCIDENCE FOR YOUR OWN PRIVATE AMUSEMENT?
OF COURSE... AND WHY NOT?
I'VE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR WORLD IS LIKE, BUT BELIEVE ME, THIS ONE IS IN NEED OF ENLIVENING...
...ENRICHING WITH OUTRAGEOUS SYNCHRONICITY!
AND NOW... I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY SOME!

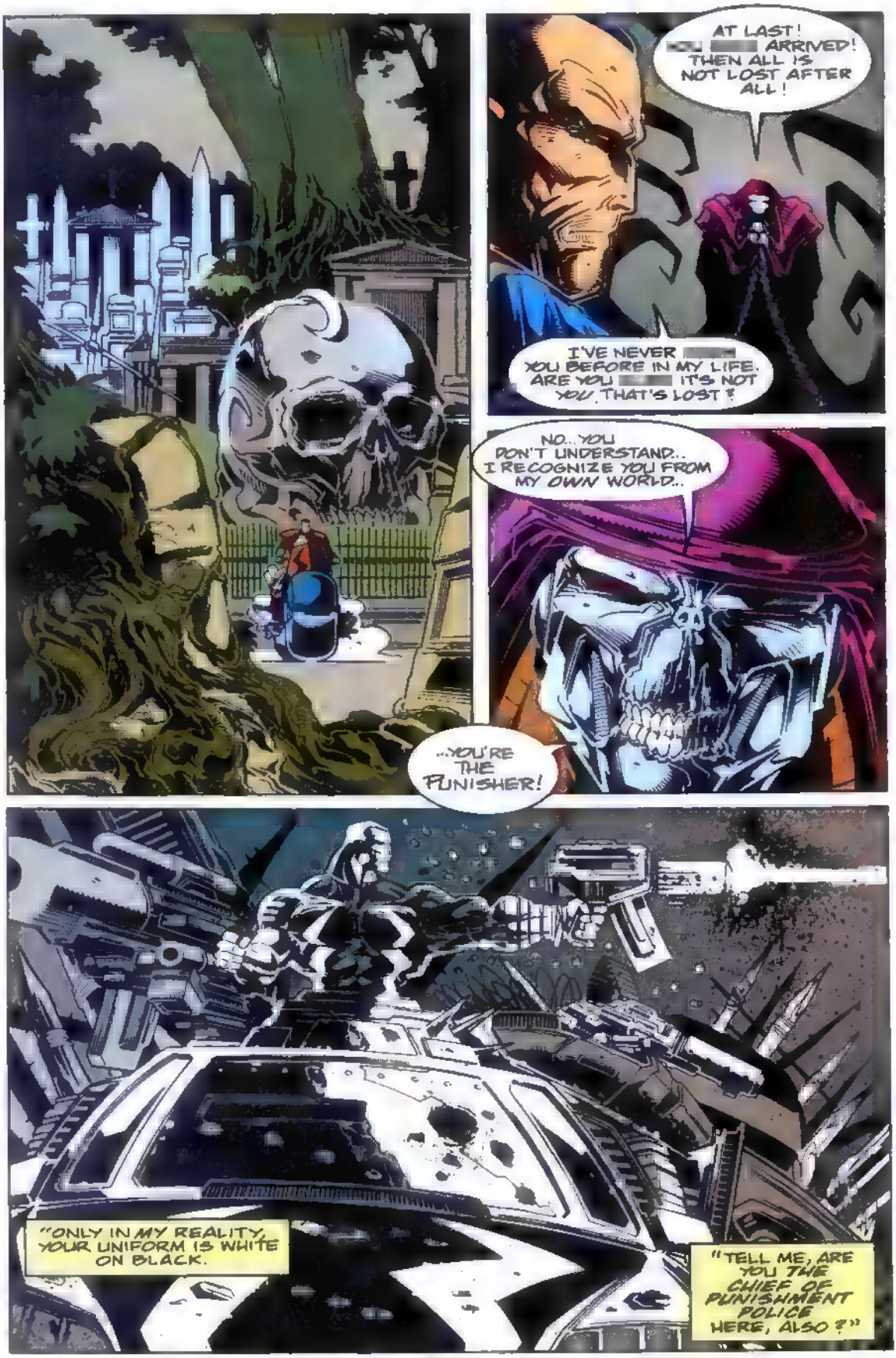

I'M ALWAYS FASCINATED TO SEE HOW THE CAUSALITY FIELDS WILL BE DISTORTED.
WHAT FORM WILL YOUR DEATH TAKE? WILL GIANT HAILSTONES FALL ON YOUR HEAD? WILL YOU SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUST?
FOOL! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING! I AM YOUR DOPPELGANGER!
I AM SYNCHRON ...THE SYNNER!
ON MY WORLD, MY BEAM WOULD ALSO CAUSE SYNCHRONICITY... BUT HERE IT NEGATES YOUR UNPREDICTABILITY WAVES!
WHY, SO IT DOES...
...BUT OUR WORLDS AREN'T SO PARALLEL...

...YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE INVENTED A SYNCHRO-SABRE LIKE MINE!
SABRE...? WHY SHOULD YOU INVENT A SABRE?
BECAUSE, WE BOTH KNOW, A CONVENTIONAL WEAPON FROM ONE DIMENSION HAS NO EFFECT ON THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF A PERSON FROM ANOTHER...
AAAH!
...BUT USING DIMENSIONAL RESONANCE, MY SWORD ATTUNES ITSELF TO ITS TARGET.
IT'S CALLED HARMONIC CONVERGENCE... HOW DOES IT FEEL?
YOU SEE, I ANTICIPATED THAT FOOLS LIKE YOU MIGHT SHOW UP FROM ALTERNATIVE WORLDS.
NOT LIKELY, I GRANT YOU...
...BUT THAT'S THE VERY NATURE OF OUR WORK.
...ISN'T IT?

I'M NOT SO SURE THIS WAS BAD LUCK.
I SOMETIMES FORGET HOW MUCH I ENJOY MY WORK.
WITH THE POWER BAT...
...AND THE BOOT.
I PREFER LOW-TECH PUNISHMENT... PULLING A TRIGGER'S FINE...
I-- I GIVE UP!
...BUT I LIKE THE IMMEDIACY OF SMASHING FACES... CRUNCHING BONES...
...THE PLEASURE BECOMES ...PALPABLE.
GLAD TO HEAR IT, PUNK!

THESE GUYS ARE ALL SADISTIC MURDERERS, THAT'S WHY THEY WERE SCHEDULED FOR THE CHAIR.
THE THOUGHT OF THEM ESCAPING AND ROAMING THE STREETS, BRINGS ON A SUDDEN... RAGE!
I GET SO ANGRY SOMETIMES.
NOW NEXT TIME THE SECURITY SYSTEM FAILS, YOU'LL JUST SIT IN YOUR CELLS AND WAIT FOR ME TO COME AND FIX IT...
...RIGHT?
UHUH...

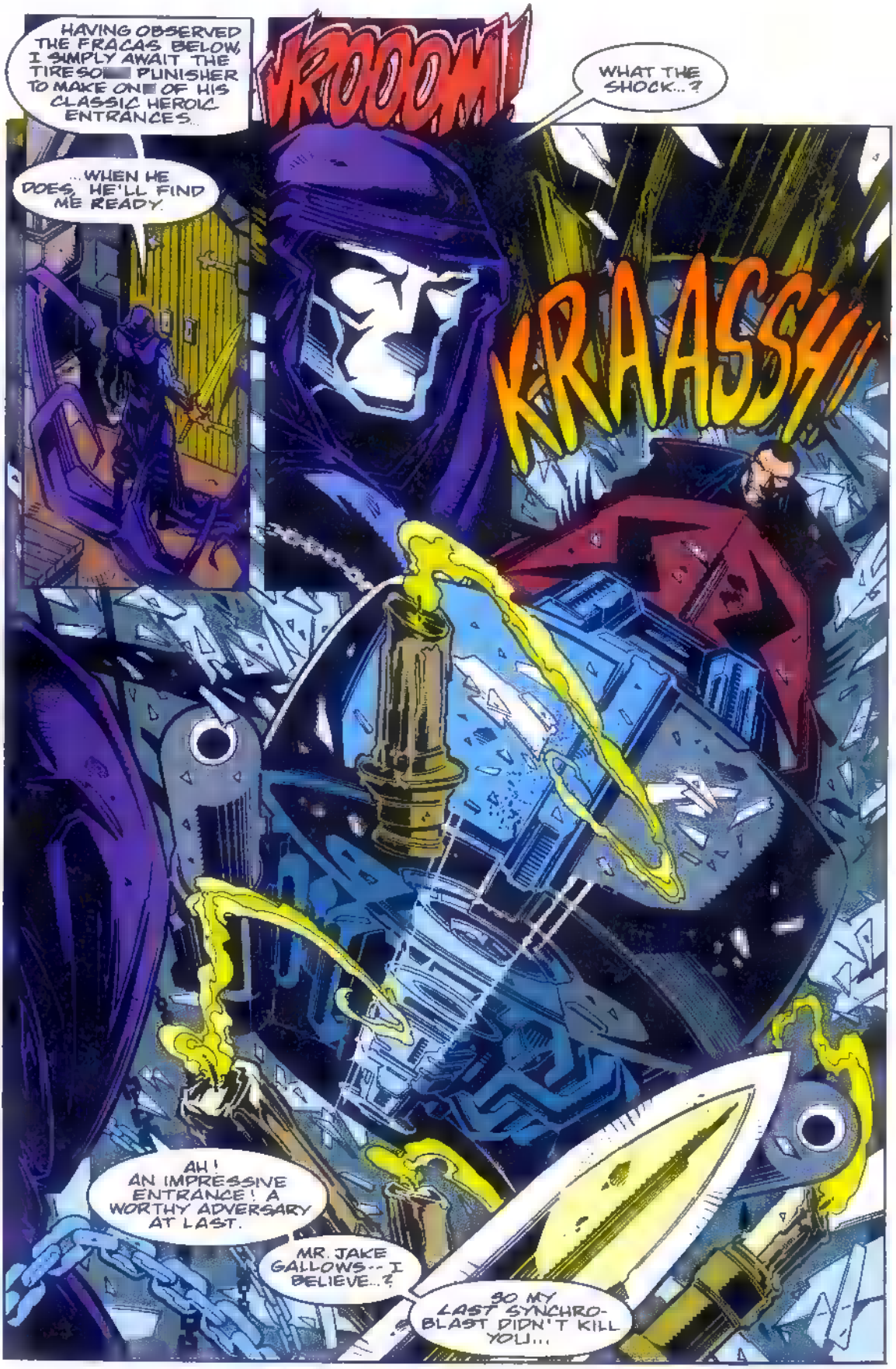
I'M GOING BACK TO MORGUE AVENUE.
THOSE UNBELIEVABLE MALFUNCTIONS COULDN'T HAVE JUST OCCURRED BY COINCIDENCE.
MY GUESS IS, WHATEVER HAPPENED THERE, JUST HAPPENED TO ME.
WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THOSE BIZARRE "ACCIDENTAL" DEATHS...
...PEOPLE DROWNING IN THEIR BATHROOMS... BEING HIT BY METEORITES...
...HAS TARGETED ME AS WELL!
BIG MISTAKE. HE'S MADE HIMSELF A BAD ENEMY.


AT LAST! [redacted] ARRIVED! THEN ALL IS NOT LOST AFTER ALL!
I'VE NEVER [redacted] YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE. ARE YOU [redacted] IT'S NOT YOU. THAT'S LOST?
NO...YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM MY OWN WORLD...
...YOU'RE THE PUNISHER!
"ONLY IN MY REALITY, YOUR UNIFORM IS WHITE ON BLACK.
"TELL ME, ARE YOU THE CHIEF OF PUNISHMENT POLICE HERE, ALSO?"

LOOK, YOU'RE RAMBLING... I HAVEN'T GOT [illegible] TIME TO LISTEN TO THE RAVINGS OF LUNATICS [illegible] GRAVEYARDS.
PERHAPS IT'S DIFFERENT IN THIS DIMENSION... PERHAPS YOU'RE NOT JAKE GALLOWS [illegible]? AND YOU NEVER MARRIED THE HOLO-ACTRESS, KERRY OWENN?
HOW COULD YOU KNOW MY NAME AND... KERRY... ? [illegible] HOLO-ACTRESS!
SHOCK! YOU'RE SERIOUS! YOU'D BETTER FILL [illegible] IN QUICKLY...
YOU ARE THE INSTRUMENT OF FATE... THE PLANET IS HEALING ITSELF... IT'S SENT THE PUNISHER!
"I ALONE COULD NOT STOP SYNCHRON... THE ST[illegible] ATTRACTOR... IT NEEDS A MURDERER-HERO LIKE YOURSELF... THE LEGENDARY VETERAN OF THE GREAT TRAFFIC WARS...
"...WHO WIPED OUT THE WARLORDS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SUPER-BRIDGE."

WOHHH! MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT MY COUNTER SELF AND HAVE A GUIDED TOUR [redacted] YOUR DIMENSION, [redacted] TO GET BACK TO THIS REALITY...
LET'S KEEP IT SIMPLE... WHO'S THE BAD GUY? WHERE IS HE? AND HOW'S HE DOING IT?
WHAT DO YOU [redacted] "WHERE IS HE?" YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT THE PUNISHER FROM MY WORLD.
THERE'S ONLY ONE BROKEN WINDOW UP THERE... AND I CAME THROUGH IT!
YOU MUST STOP [redacted] BEFORE THE SYNCHRO-MESH IS RIPPED APART... IT WILL BE THE END OF EVERY-THING!
YOUR REALITY AND MINE!
NOW, GO DO THE WORK THE UNIVERSE HAS BESTOWED UPON US.
HERE... TAKE MY SYNCHRO-MASK...
...I FEEL MY OWN WORLD DRAGGING [redacted] BACK ...MY TIME HERE IS...
...OVER.

OKAY... YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL I NEED TO KNOW... NOW IT'S TIME FOR...
PUNISH
KEN
SO YOU'RE ME... THE PUNISHER TWO!
I DON'T LIKE WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. I'VE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU...
FZZZT!
I GUESS THEY'LL HAVE TO WAIT.

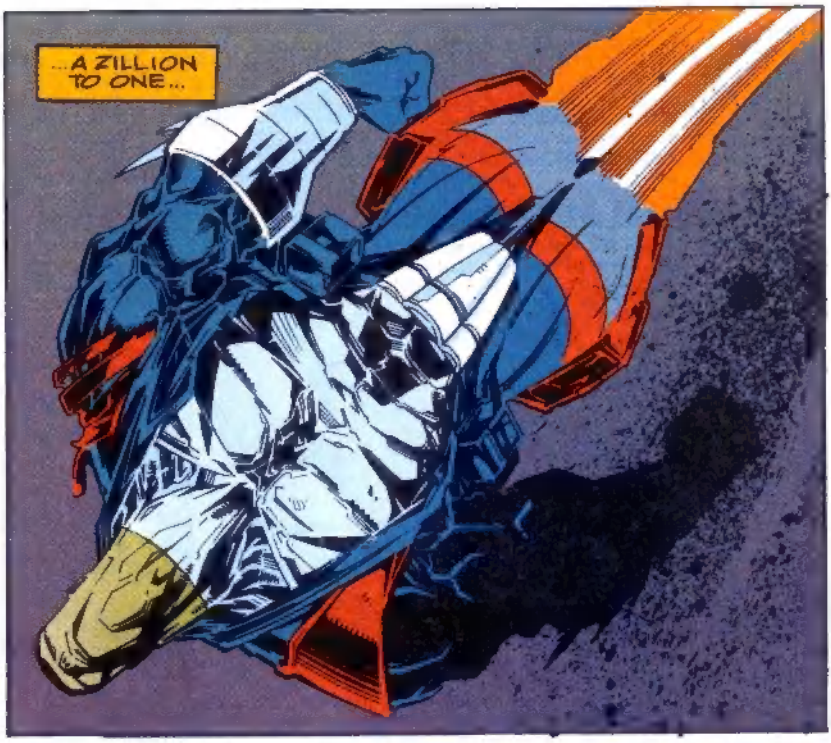

HAVING OBSERVED THE FRACAS BELOW, I SIMPLY AWAIT THE TIRESOME PUNISHER TO MAKE ONE OF HIS CLASSIC HEROIC ENTRANCES...
...WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL FIND ME READY.
KROOOM!
WHAT THE SHOCK...?
KRAASSH!
AH! AN IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE! A WORTHY ADVERSARY AT LAST.
MR. JAKE GALLOWS -- I BELIEVE...?
SO MY LAST SYNCHRO-BLAST DIDN'T KILL YOU...

...BUT THIS ONE WILL!
AND I'LL JUST KEEP HITTING YOU UNTIL SOME FATAL ACCIDENT PUTS YOU OUT OF MY MISERY!
'FRAID NOT, SYNCHRON!
SO YOU HAVE MY COUNTERPART'S MASK, BUT LIKE HIM, YOU LACK THE SYNCHRO-SABRE!
YOUR FLESH WILL LEAP APART AT ITS TOUCH!
JERK! YOU THINK THIS ■ THE FIRST TIME I'VE DEALT WITH A POWER-SWORD?
THE SYNCHRONICITY THING WAS A NICE TRICK...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO VIOLENCE, YOU'RE TALKING MY LANGUAGE!

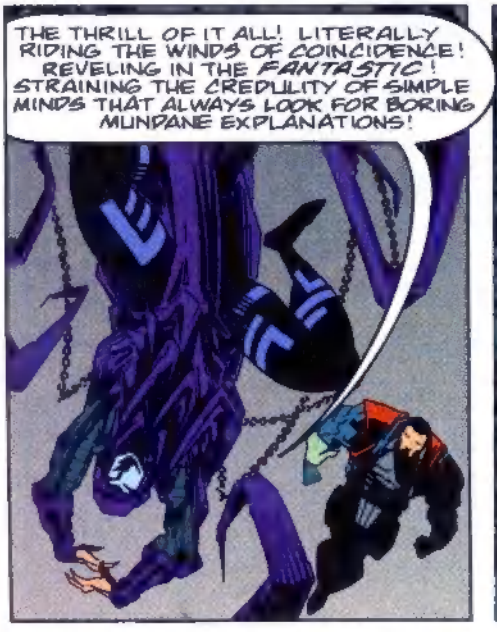
TRICK?! YOU CALL COMMANDING THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE A TRICK?
I'LL SHOW YOU TRICKS!
WATCH AS I PLUNGE US INTO A SEETHING VORTEX OF CHAOS! TREMBLE AS I COMMAND THE NON-ENERGY AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL TO [redacted] RELEASED IN A TORTURED DISTORTION OF CAUSALITY!
KINDA HOPING YOU'D [redacted] THAT..'CAUSE WHATEVER HAPPENS TO [redacted] HAPPENS TO YOU...AND I FIGURE--OUT OF THE TWO OF US--I'M THE TOUGHEST!

YOU MAY CALL YOURSELF SYNCHRON, THE STRANGE ATTRACTOR...
...BUT TO ME, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL CRIPPLE IN A COSTUME!
HOW DARE YOU? KNOW YOU NOT THAT EVERY ECO-SYSTEM NEEDS BOTH PREDATOR AND PREY?
AND THAT IS MY FUNCTION--TO PREY UPON THE NORMALS...THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO THE GREY BLANDNESS OF EXISTENCE!
LOOK OUT! MY BRAKES HAVE GONE!
I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF PLANETARY WILL! SEE WHY I CALL MYSELF THE STRANGE ATTRACTOR...
THOR'S BLOOD! OUT OF CONTROL... MY STEERING SYSTEM'S GONE DOWN!
...TASTE MY FEARFUL SYNCHRONICITY!

...THE CHANCES OF IT SINGLING US OUT ARE...


...A ZILLION TO ONE...

...LIKE EVERY-THING ELSE THAT HAPPENS TO THIS CREEP!


THE THRILL OF IT ALL! LITERALLY RIDING THE WINDS OF COINCIDENCE! REVELING IN THE FANTASTIC! STRAINING THE CREDULITY OF SIMPLE MINDS THAT ALWAYS LOOK FOR BORING MUNDANE EXPLANATIONS!

HEY, BIG MOUTH! LOOK WHAT'S COMING OUR WAY!

I'VE WORKED IT OUT.. I'M GOING TO BE HIT BY SOMETHING ABOUT EVERY TEN SECONDS.. SO ALL I'VE GOTTA DO IS...
WHUMP!
WE'LL BOTH HIT THE GROUND, BUT MY POWER SUIT WILL...
OOOFF!
...INERTIA ACCUMULATORS TAKE THE ENERGY..
...HOW ABOUT YOU?

HEY... BAD LUCK!
NEXT!
48 PAGES! FOIL-EMBOSSED COVER!
THE RETURN of VENDETTA! PLUS
AN ALL-NEW VILLAIN!